



## Dr. Barry Cobb retires as DANTES director

### *Farewell Comments*

On 31 May I retire after serving as the director of DANTES for over 24 years. As I look forward to retirement, I also reflect on my time as part of our voluntary education community. We should all feel a strong sense of accomplishment for our efforts to provide educational opportunities to the men and women who serve in our Armed Forces. I know our work has changed lives and provided so many individuals a chance to grow personally and professionally.

Over the past two decades, DANTES has worked hard to establish a customer-oriented, professional, and successful organization. We have provided many services and programs. More than 2.2 million credit-by-exams have been administered, over 800,000 GED, SAT, ACT, and Praxis tests given, and 1.3 million guidance inventories provided. Through the ACE Guide program, more than nine million hours of credit have been granted to Service members at SOC institutions. More than 150,000 individuals took distance learning courses.

We have distributed millions of publications and education materials to education centers around the world. DANTES funded and managed

contracts that provided the MIVER, ACE Guide, SOC, and other services, such as administering the Troops to Teachers Program. We keep current by managing five Web sites and providing more services through information technology solutions. Of course, we are very proud to sponsor the DoD Worldwide Education Symposium and other professional development events. And we have done a lot more these last twenty plus years.

Please note that I said “we”

provided these services. The “we” of course, refers to the dedicated staff at DANTES. I have been very lucky to work with a professional, hard working staff who have integrity and the desire to do their best for Service men and women. I cannot thank them enough and I hope they understand how much I appreciate their contributions to DANTES’ success.

There are so many others to thank; so many others who helped DANTES



Top: Barry Cobb, circa 1981. Above: Cobb in 2005.

succeed. They are at the OSD level, in education centers, on Service staffs, at colleges and the professional associations. Your support means a lot to me.

The future of DANTES looks sound, with new and dynamic leadership and new tasks to tackle. DANTES will become a stronger and an even more successful organization. Thank you, and I wish you all the best.

-- BARRY L. COBB

### Where is it?

Online Resources .....	2
Testing .....	3
Workshops .....	4
Troops to Teachers .....	5
Distance Learning .....	6
Certification .....	7

# Online Resources

## Online resources offer voluntary educational tools to military community personnel

Three Web sites supporting Air Force, Army, Navy and Marine Corps service personnel, families and civilian employees provide 24/7 online access to a one-stop voluntary education shop where they can research their educational goals, the related costs, and the steps they need to take, such as program searches and test preparation.

Each virtual reference Resource Center features a number of comprehensive educational databases, including colleges, historically black colleges, graduate schools, scholarships, MBA programs, law schools, distance learning programs, career colleges, nursing programs, executive MBA programs, and vocational/technical schools. Each database is updated annually with vital facts and figures, such as program overview, application information, eligibility requirements, deadlines, and other details a user needs to make the right education choices.

Free online test preparation is another highlight and one of the most popular sections of each site according to Thomson Peterson's, an educational information company based in New Jersey and an early pioneer in making educational information available online. Peterson's built these Web sites via contracts with the Army General Library Program, the Air Force Library and Information System,

and the Naval General Library Program.

All three Resource Centers offer a combination of online practice tests and online books. Students can improve their scores on the ASVAB, SAT, ACT, CLEP, GRE, qualifying exams for a number of civil service jobs, such as postal clerks, firefighters, and law enforcement officers, as well as tests specific to a particular branch. The Air Force Library Education Resource Center, for example, offers an online AFOQT practice test. Access to the practice test is free, unlimited, and available 24/7. Online books for those tests are also available in an easily downloadable, PDF format.

Finally, each Resource Center features a special section on career guidance, which includes a Resume Builder (this will be available to the Navy and Marine Corps on Oct 1, 2005) to help service personnel create a private sector or federal

resume. Its Skills Translator matches their military background with a civilian job. An online job bank and the U.S. Department of Labor's annual Occupational Outlook Handbook are also available.

For a better understanding of what Thomson Peterson's offers, visit the U.S. Air Force Library Education Center at [www.petersons.com/airforce](http://www.petersons.com/airforce). For a limited time, military community members can sample the free practice tests by simply typing in activation code "DANTES" when prompted. For questions, see your base librarian or call (877) 433-8277 to speak with a Thomson Peterson's technical support representative.

Links:

- U.S. Army Library Education Center—[www.army.mil/ako](http://www.army.mil/ako) or [www.petersons.com/army](http://www.petersons.com/army)
- U.S. Air Force Education Resource Center – <https://afvec.langley.af.mil> or [www.petersons.com/airforce](http://www.petersons.com/airforce)
- U.S. Navy Library Education Resource Center – [www.nko.navy.mil](http://www.nko.navy.mil).



## Calendar

### June

3	Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
6	LSAT
11-15	Praxis*

### August

5	Excelsior Extended Response (Essay)
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### September

17-21	Praxis *
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### Notes:

Overseas test centers send orders six weeks before the test date.  
CONUS test centers send orders four weeks before the test date.  
Contractors ship tests to arrive just before the planned test date.

\*Select only one test date from the published period for DANTES testing and specify that date on the order form.

[http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes\\_web/library/docs/examinations/04-05cal.doc](http://www.dantes.doded.mil/dantes_web/library/docs/examinations/04-05cal.doc)



**College tests offered for Airmen manning internment camp**

CAMP BUCCA, Iraq – Still wearing body armor, Staff Sgt. Shawn Andrews, deployed with the 586th Expeditionary Security Force from Aviano Air Base, Italy, answers questions on a College Level Examination Program (CLEP) test. Andrews was one of 74 Airmen taking advantage of a recent visit to the camp by a test control officer. Unit members were able to take tests under the CLEP or other DANTES programs. (U.S. Air Force photo)

## Method + Motivation + Opportunity = Cheating

W.C. Fields was quoted as saying, “A thing worth having is a thing worth cheating for.” Humor, yes but enough truth to bear watchful consideration. Will cheating take place in your test center?

Bill McAleer, DANTES Far East office, uses the formula above to challenge test administrators. With the advent of camera watches and pens, miniature transmitters and receivers, and the like, the **Method** for cheating is available to everyone. Are people **Motivated** to cheat? I think we know from experience what the answer is. We can only do so much to control **Method** and **Motivation**! They are examinee driven and easily masked. What test administrators can control is **Opportunity**.

Do you:

- **routinely use alternate test forms?** The CLEP, DSST, and Excelsior College programs all have alternate forms, but our analysis shows that those alternate forms are not used on a frequent basis.

- **maintain constant vigilance** during testing or do you leave examinees unobserved?

- **caution examinees** that the same rules apply to DANTES testing that apply to promotion testing? Both are important exams and must be tightly controlled.

- **warn examinees of the consequences if caught cheating?** Order the poster “Cheating is punishable under the UCMJ or other applicable laws,” DANTES Stock Number 1294.

When **you** take away **Opportunity**, cheating is no longer a factor.

## SAT program changes – new SAT exams to start in October

To prepare for the October 2005 introduction of the new SAT with the required essay writing section, all DANTES Test Control Officers are reminded to return all current SAT test booklets (Form 51) immediately after 30 June 2005. **Any current year SAT administered after 30 June 2005 will not be scored.**

To be eligible to receive the new SAT in October 2005, the DANTES TCO is responsible for ensuring all current year SAT forms are returned and accounted for. Thomson-Prometric (formerly CGI/ETS) will provide the Exam Programs a listing of DANTES Test Centers that have complied with this requirement. Thomson-Prometric will honor test orders only from these test centers and will ship the new SAT examinations starting in September 2005.

In conjunction with Thomson-Prometric, DANTES will contact test centers that have unresolved inventory discrepancies. We need your cooperation with resolving these discrepancies as quickly as possible in order to provide SAT testing services to your military examinees. If the inventory discrepancy results in a test loss investigation, testing on the new SAT examination will not be authorized until the investigation process is concluded and corrective actions are implemented.

To learn more about the new SAT, visit the College Board Web site at <http://www.CollegeBoard.com>. There is an excellent SAT fact sheet available in the “Press” section of this Web site under “News and Information.” The 2005-2006 *DANTES Examination Program Handbook*, SAT Chapter, will have complete information regarding the new test.



# Workshops

## Making a difference through COMETS

The spotlight this month is on the Council on Military Education in Texas and the South (COMETS) that met in Corpus Christi, Texas on 6-8 April 2005.

Under the COMETS umbrella are voluntary education personnel and institutional representatives from Texas and nearby states working together to promote and support quality education programs available to the military community.

Speaking at the Council of College and Military Educators (CCME) conference in February 2005, Gary Woods, Director, Educational Opportunities, Office of Under Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy, challenged Advisory Councils on Military Education (ACMEs) like COMETS to become more proactive on education issues affecting military communities within their state or region.

In the past, COMETS successfully worked to overturn a restrictive residency requirement for military members and other issues, but then, according to Jim Antenen, COMETS president, "we took our eye off the ball and (now) will refocus on the fundamentals."

Energized conference attendees

took up the challenge and divided into four groups to address:

- Future goals and objectives of COMETS
  - Guard and Reserve issues
  - Transfer of credit issues
  - Education benefits revisited.
- Each group reported back to the COMETS membership on discussion items and possible courses of action to include working in concert with other ACMEs on some of the issues.

At the conclusion of the conference, Antenen passed the gavel to incoming president, Lavern Kistner. She informed attendees that she

plans to continue the work begun in the breakout sessions and that her vision is "to improve and retain

education opportunities for our military members in Texas and its surrounding states."

Further information on the conference and copies of presentations can be found on the COMETS Web site at <http://www.sa.wbu.edu/comets/home.htm>.

## DANTES workshops

"Decreases in travel funds for attendees has made it necessary to cancel the remaining FY05 DANTES Regional and Services Workshops," said Ace DuBose, DANTES Training Manager. "One Test Control Officer (TCO) Workshop in Pensacola, Fla., scheduled for 16-18 August, is still in the works," he said.

TCO Workshops are for prospective active-duty Test Control Officers or Alternate Test Control Officers without previous TCO/ATCO experience and prospective Guard/Reserve TCOs or ATCOs recommended by their Service Headquarters to attend. To register, contact Toni Streety, Code 20C, at (850) 452-1063 or DSN 922-1063 or via e-mail to [exams@voled.doded.mil](mailto:exams@voled.doded.mil).



**Lavern Kistner, left, of Brooks City-Base, received the gavel from outgoing COMETS president, Jim Antenen, Wayland Baptist University.**

## Smith named new chief, VoIEd Branch, USAF

Anne Smith has been named the new chief of the Air Force Voluntary Education Branch, HQAF. She served two years as the assistant chief. In this new position, Smith is responsible for the development and implementation of policy for voluntary education opportunities for military members. She is also responsible for dependent education and Veteran's education benefit programs and is the career functional manager of the Education Services community with policy oversight that impacts training and career development of over 750 Civil Service and contract employees.

Smith has held positions in the following areas: Squadron Orderly Room, Base Library, Military Personnel Flight, Civilian Training, two MAJCOM headquarters, and various Education Centers.

Smith is an advocate for both civilian and military education and training. She holds a bachelor of science degree in psychology and a masters of science degree in guidance and counseling. In 2002, she graduated from the Air Command and Staff College in-residence program at Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, Ala.



## Green Beret goes from Special Forces to special ed

Before he turned to Troops to Teachers (TTT) and a second career in teaching, Brett Smith served in the Army for 20 years. Today, by all accounts, he is an outstanding special education teacher. Last year, he received the Teacher of the Year Award for Professional Development from the Colorado Troops to Teacher Program. But it is the behind-the-scenes-story that makes him the compelling figure he is, especially among students.

Like many teenagers, Smith went straight from high school to the Army because he wanted to see the world. And see it he did; during the course of his military service, he traveled to 117 countries, a statistic that wows his students every time. His diverse assignments get students' attention too: from diplomatic assignments as a military advisor to U.S. ambassadors

classrooms because of emotional and behavioral problems that lead to conflict with a teacher or the school. Nevertheless, most have average intelligence, according to Smith. "But they have learned failure," he says. "They are used to being put down so they are defensive, and some have severe anger problems."

The 6-foot, 4-inch, 220 pound Smith is a presence in the classroom; his pony tail and tattoos complete the picture. And the photos throughout the classroom remind students every day that he is a Green Beret; he has been all over; and he has seen

sometimes the best course of action may be to send a student home for the day – but not if the parent at home may be a father with a restraining order against him.

Although Smith has been working toward a doctorate, serving on crisis teams, and moving his family to a new

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**"If I say it, I do it."**

*Brett Smith*

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in Latvia and Bosnia to Special Ops service as a Green Beret in Korea. It was 15 years before he got around to going to college. But he always knew he would complete his education; he had even selected a second career in education.

Smith says he knew from the beginning that he was interested in teaching kids who do not learn in traditional ways. "Everything I learned in the military – the work ethic, the ability to build rapport with young people and with diverse populations – readied me for teaching Special Ed."

These days he teaches language arts, science, math, social studies, music, and German to students who have been removed from regular

a lot. In the end, though, it is his fairness and his ability to build trust that win the students over. "If I say it, I do it," he explains. The bywords he shares with the students are respect, responsibility, restraint. It certainly seems to work: Smith believes strongly in mainstreaming kids, and more than 90 percent of those who are sent to him have been returned to regular classes.

"You can't fix every problem," he concedes. "It humbles you." Many students in his rural school district are from troubled families. Some are wards of the state. Smith says that



home after the youngest of his five children left college, he still plans to finish the book he started. He is writing the book that he wishes he had when he first started teaching – something to help new teachers who may not have much life experience get off to a good start.

For information about Troops to Teachers, visit <http://www.proudtoserveagain.com>.

# Distance Learning

## 2005 Distance Learning Catalogs available on CD

DANTES has published the 2005 Distance Learning Catalogs on CD-ROM. The CDs are available to education services personnel. If you would like to order copies of the CD-ROM, please e-mail us at [dstlearn@voled.doded.mil](mailto:dstlearn@voled.doded.mil) or call (850) 452-1085 or DSN 922-1085. Provide us with your name, title, Service, installation, office mailing address, DANTES ID number, and how many copies you would like. There is a limit of five CDs; however, if you need more than five, let us know and we will try to accommodate you.

### DANTES Catalog of Nationally Accredited Distance Learning Programs

**The Distance Education and Training Council (DETC) Commission approved the following new degree programs:**

**American Public University System, American Military University**

Master of Arts in Humanities

**Ashworth College**

Associate in Marketing

Associate in Security Management

Masters of Health Care Administration

Masters of Human Resource Management

**California College for Health Sciences**

Master of Science in Nursing

**Columbia Southern University**

Bachelor of Science in Hospitality and Tourism

Bachelor of Science in Fire Science

Bachelor of Science in Marketing

Master of Science in Criminal Justice Administration

Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management

**Grantham University**

Bachelor of Science and Associate of Science in General Studies

Bachelor of Science and Associate of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies

**Southwest University**

Associate of Science in Criminal Justice

**The DETC Commission approved the following new courses:**

**Allied Business Schools**

Virginia Real Estate Principles

Washington Real Estate Principles

**American Graduate University**

Management Information Systems

Project Management

**College of the Humanities and Sciences**

Language Arts Writing Connection

Language Arts Reading Connection

Mathematics Connection

Social Studies Connection

Science Connection

Writers Inc.

Algebra to Go

Number Power Review

Merriam Webster's Collegiate Dictionary

Dictionary of Cultural Literacy

High School Diploma Program and its courses

**International Import-Export Institute**

Introduction to Psychology

**Professional Career Development Institute**

Forensic Science

Professional Physical Therapy Aide

Professional Security Specialist

Sports Psychology

**Sessions.edu**

Advanced Graphic Design

Flash ActionScript Programming



## ACE available in CONUS

The American Council on Exercise (ACE) recently approved DANTES test sites to administer their exams in the United States. ACE's long-standing policy until now has limited administration of their exams by DANTES test sites to overseas locations. Since these exams are highly desirable, we anticipate an increase in the number of Service members requesting them due to this policy change.

ACE exams are popular with military members desiring to maintain their fitness while also documenting their skills to meet the standards of certified personal trainers, aerobic instructors, or weight management specialists. For additional information on ACE, visit the Certification Programs section on the DANTES Web site at <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>

or visit <http://www.acefitness.org>.

The Calendar and DEPH links on the dropdown menu contain ACE information. You may also e-mail the DANTES Certification Program at [certprog@voled.doded.mil](mailto:certprog@voled.doded.mil).

## NARTE still has free FCC tests

The National Association of Radio and Telecommunications Engineers (NARTE) has free Federal Communications Commission (FCC) tests available for eligible military members with a related occupational specialty. The tests only require Service members to complete and submit an application which can be

downloaded from the DANTES Web site. Refer interested personnel to <http://www.dantes.doded.mil>. Once on the Web site, go to Certification Programs and click on Funded Pilots. Prospective candidates download the application, complete the form, obtain a signature by a TCO, and submit the form to NARTE. NARTE will forward up to three tests for administration to each requesting military member. For additional information, read information on the DANTES Web site, telephone DSN 922-1360 or send e-mail to [certprog@voled.doded.mil](mailto:certprog@voled.doded.mil).

## Dental Assisting National Board available in CONUS

The Dental Assisting National Board (DANB) now allows stateside administration of their certification exam at authorized installation education centers using DANTES testing procedures. In order to participate, installation education center representatives must register with DANB and obtain a site code. To request a site code, contact Nadine Tanner at 1-800-FOR-DANB, Ext. 443. Overseas locations should use the commercial number (312)

643-3368 or e-mail Tanner at [examproject@danb.org](mailto:examproject@danb.org). Each participating center will be required to complete a required site code form.



We encourage installations desiring to participate in this worthwhile program to contact DANTES by phone at DSN 922-1360 or send e-mail to [certprog@voled.doded.mil](mailto:certprog@voled.doded.mil). You may also visit the DANB Web site: <http://www.danb.org> for additional information.

## If your job went away

If your job went away what would you do? This question faces civilian workers on a regular basis and, since most Service members become civilians and enter the job market eventually, they may have to face this question as well.

We all know about unemployment, wages vs. salary, layoffs, downsizing, outsourcing, etc. It is important to prepare for the future. Changes in congressional legislation have thrust certification and licensure near the top of the list of things people need to do for getting and keeping jobs.

In 2002, the "No Child Left Behind Act" altered the career path of some teachers who had previously met the requirements to teach in the nation's schools. Now, the requirement for certification for all teachers in the United States must be met in 2006.

Teaching is only one profession where certification is now paramount for people wanting to keep their jobs or enter the field. There are many others.

The question of "If your job went away, what would you do?" presents an opportunity for everyone to pause and consider preparing for the future.

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